



October 28, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair, Training Working Team

FROM: Chair, Safety and Health Working Team /s/ Paul Broyles

SUBJECT: Recommended changes to S-404

The NWCG Safety and Health Working Team is concerned about noticeable “trends” in the order and placement of Safety Officers on every Division on many fires. This behavior is not desirable in view of the severe shortage in Safety Officers and sends an errant message to DIVS and others concerning responsibility for safety oversight and management.

Part of the issue may be found in S-404, where recommendations of yore have become requirements.

The NWCG Safety and Health Working Team requests 1) the NWCG Training Working Team include the following changes in its regularly scheduled revision of S-404; and, 2) the TWT forward direction to the GATRs to immediately incorporate the following revisions in the delivery of S-404 in their Geographic Areas.

Revisions

Instructor PowerPoint presentation, and Instructor and Student Guides:

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|----------------|---|
| Remove | “Safety Officers are assigned on each hotline division, on major burnouts (aerial ignition, broadcast burns”, staging areas and camps.” (04-49-S404-EP and Unit 4-IV-A) |
| Add [and edit] | “Order Safety Officers based upon the severity and complexity of the incident. Assign Safety Officers to those areas where they would be most effective in preventing accidents and injuries.” (See Field Reference Guide, Section 17.) |

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (208) 387-5226.